

# Kunsthhaus Graz

## Press

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## Sol LeWitt's Wall. Performed Re-Imagine the Future

Kunsthhaus Graz, Lendkai 1, 8020 Graz  
Opening: 27.09.2023, 7 pm  
Duration: 28.09.2023 –09.06.2024  
Curated by Katrin Bucher Trantow  
Location: Space01  
Information: +43 316 8017-9200  
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On September 27th, 2023, we celebrate the opening of two exhibitions and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kunsthhaus, through a nuanced re-activation of history, specific, new, artistic productions and performative interventions.

The call issued by the Kunsthhaus architects Colin Fournier and Peter Cook, 'Up into the Unknown', was and remains an adventurous invitation to sound out the boundaries of one's own imagination and to react to the demand for alternative ideas and utopias. The interweaving of a variety of possible strands from history with the present and the future turns into the leitmotif for a many-voiced speculation with the title *Re-Imagine the Future*. On view are *Sol LeWitt's Wall. Performed* in Space01 as well as the group exhibition *The Other* in Space02.

The monumental *Wall* by the important American conceptual artist Sol LeWitt is being reactivated after 20 years and recontextualised in dialogue with current artistic positions. The work forms the basis for further thinking, in the present, about the past and for projecting from it the future, within this process of engagement.

As the first solo presentation at Kunsthhaus Graz in 2004, Sol LeWitt's *Wall* made use of Space01 in the form of a monumental, curved, stacked wall. Able to be experienced performatively, it reflected the architecture's modular construction, industrial technology and extraordinary dimensions. As a groundbreaking concept for a repository of ideas and experiences, this work by Sol LeWitt was given to the Kunsthhaus Graz that same year as a concept for later reworking.

The reactivation after 20 years opens up avenues for re-reading and re-contextualising LeWitt's work, but also reflects a shift in institutional language with regard to artistic and political contexts. Since 2003, issues of co-creation and control have been critically examined. The specificity of the site no longer reflects only the architecture, it also embraces a broader understanding of context. A wall is therefore read today as a political statement, too. As a pivotal work by the influential conceptual artist, *Wall* in 2023 will occupy the space for an extended period, during which many different aspects of the work will be reflected upon.

Borrowing from LeWitt's *Paragraphs on Conceptual Art*, the show starts from the idea. It then works through aspects of physicality, co-creation and questions of modularity. The reconstruction of the monumental physical drawing unfolds as a collaborative action and as a confrontational work that is challenged from different angles. Together with specially invited artists, the exhibition will provide space for contemplation of its conceptual as well as aesthetic form. So LeWitt's *Wall* becomes a platform, a podium, a stage talking about the crossing, permeability and performativity of history, its form – and ultimately about political demarcations as well.

### **Protocol for Utopia**

LeWitt provides a concept in which the concise idea is the most important artistic invention and its production a collective endeavour in which the rules are conscientiously followed. For this reason, the exhibition considers time and collaboration as important aspects and lasts some time. It spans nine months from September 2023 to June 2024. The initial chapter concerns concepts and protocols. In accordance with our search for a new notion of the future, the new installation of the work questions the utopia of the polyphonic. On the opening days, we bring together conversations, collaborative experiments and a variety of vocal performances that explore present and past utopias. Consequently, the opening of the exhibition uses time for the participation of many and unfolds over four days. Included are world premieres by Franz Jochum, Jasmina Cibic, and a non-linear evening of literature, music and thought co-curated by renowned Sudanese poet and Graz City Writer (2023) Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin.

### **Work Work Work**

The next chapter deals with the concept of work. In the second activation of *Wall*, the process of building the wall becomes a visible part of the artistic concept. Together with the original crew members from 2004, the physical act of building opens discussions on issues of visibility and validity of labor, of joint production and delegation.

### **Collecting Variations**

Finally, the permanent exhibition gives thought to LeWitt's concept of the modular, its evolution into variations and collections, and brings in artists who explore the modularity of language and geometric forms as ways of understanding cultural codes today.

Including such artists as Franz Vana, Superflex, Renate Krammer, and drawing on various collaborations, we address conflicting issues such as universal accessibility, concepts of domination and control, as well as rights to authorship.